

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-01 ACDA-05

SY-04 EB-07 COME-00 EURE-00 /066 W

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P R 161250Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2329

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, GW

SUBJ: IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE RING DISCOVERED IN GERMANY

REF: STATE 067995,STUTTGART 0250 OF APRIL 1974

SUMMARY

LOCAL RADIO AND TV STATIONS ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT, FOLLOWED BY THE LOCAL PRESS THIS MORNING THAT AN INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE RING HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN GERMANY. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, TWELVE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN THE LAST DAYS OF DECEMBER 1974, NINE ARE STILL UNDER CUSTODY, AND THE GROUP IS ACCUSED OF STEALING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY FOR A SECRET SERVICE ORGANIZATION IN THE "EAST BLOC". ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED IS KNOWN TO THE CONGEN. END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 22, ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, TWO MEN OF THE RING WERE ARRESTED IN FRANKFURT WHILE TRYING TO TAKE PICTURES WITH A MICRO-MOVIE-CAMERA OF THE MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS OF AN IBM COMPUTER INSTALLED IN A LARGE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE THERE. INVESTIGATIONS IN FRANKFURT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUESSELDORF, SOLINGEN, KREFELD AND STUTTGART LEAD TO THE

ARREST OF ANOTHER NINE PERSONS. THE FEDERAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, SIEGFRIED BUBACK IN KARLSRUHE, HAS STRONG SUSPICIONS THAT THE ACCUSED HAVE SINCE THE SPRING OF 1973 DELIVERED TO THE SOVIET SECRET SERVICE OPERATION REGULATIONS, WIRING DIAGRAMS, MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS, MAGNETIC TAPES AND MICRO PROGRAMMING DISCS, AND RECEIVED IN RETURN AT LEAST DM 272,000 AS REIMBURSEMENT. WHEN SEARCHING THE OFFICES AND HOMES OF THE ACCUSED, INVESTIGATION OFFICIALS FOUND EXPOSED FILMS, HIGH QUALITY PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT, MINIATURE CAMERAS OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. ONE OF THE ACCUSED HAD DM 86,000 IN HIS POCKET AT THE TIME OF ARREST, ANOTHER DM 76,000 IN HIS BANK SAFE.

2. THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR STATED THAT THE RING WORKED IN THREE GROUPS: ONE OBTAINED THE MATERIAL, THE SECOND TRANSFERRED IT TO THE THIRD AND THE LATTER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE SECRET SERVICE. THE RING RECEIVED ORDERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD ONLY, IBM EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY WAS THE MAIN TARGET. AMONG THE ARRESTED IS ONE IBM EMPLOYEE SPECIALIZING IN MAINTENANCE WORK. NO NAMES OF PERSONS OR FIRMS HAVE BEEN GIVEN. THE PERSONS ARRESTED WILL PROBABLY BE CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE , AS WELL AS WITH THEFT, EMBEZZLEMENT, BRIBERY, VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXPORTS AND COMMERCIAL COMPETITION.

3. FROM LOCAL SOURCES THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS LEARNED THAT MATHIAS WURZINGER IS AMONG THE ACCUSED. WURZINGER APPROACHED THE CONGEN LAST YEAR IN A BID, HE SAID TO CLEAR HIMSELF OF INVOLVEMENT WITH PETER LORENZ, UNTIL THEN HIS EMPLOYER AND SUSPECTED OF DELIVERING IBM COMPUTERS TO THE USSR IN VIOLATION OF US AND FRG EXPORT REGULATIONS (SEE STUTTGART'S 0219 OF MARCH 27, 1974, A-40 OF APRIL Q1974, AND STATE 067095.) WE HAVE ALSO HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WURZINGER EFFECTED ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE IBM HEADQUARTER IN STUTTGART ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20,1974 USING THE IBM IDENTIFICATION CARD OF ONE HUBERT MIELISCH, WHO WAS KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN THE EVENING OF THE SAME DAY. IBM HAS INFORMED THE STUTTGART PROSECUTOR OF THE INCIDENT. AMONG THE PERSONS ARRESTED IS HERR WEISE, A PARTNER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE DUESSELDORF COMPANY COD, AND INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE LORENZ DIVERSIONS OF IBM COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

4. LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE CONGEN THAT ALL PERSONS ARRESTED ARE GERMAN CITIZENS, AND THAT THE CASE IS BEING DIRECTED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL(BUNDESKRIMINALAMT). JENKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, COMPUTERS, INDUSTRIAL IMPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STUTT00055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0204
From: STUTTGART
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750144/aaaabnbm.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 067995, 75 TUTTGART 0250, 75 OF APRIL 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE RING DISCOVERED IN GERMANY
TAGS: ESTC, GE, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006